

PIXIE DUST NEWS

SUMMER 2017

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DESTINATION: ISRAEL

DISNEY WORLD TICKET SALE:

You know what's more magical than Orlando, Florida's Magic Kingdom? Absolutely nothing. So when Disney World offers customers a rare discount, you run. You do not walk. Normally, a standard four-day ticket with admission to one park (Animal Kingdom, Hollywood Studios, Epcot or Magic Kingdom) per day will set you back \$350 per person over the age of 10. But because Disney is a place where dreams come true, it has created a 4-Park Magic Ticket — it has "magic" in the title because it lets you experience all four theme parks on four separate days for just \$79 per day, per ticket for guests 10 and up (\$74 for kids 3-9!). That means each member of your family gets *four* days of Disney fun for \$316. While it doesn't seem like a lot, the small savings definitely adds up.

If you're interested in giving your kids Christmas in July, here's what you need to know. Tickets expire 14 days after first use (you can spread it out!) *or* by September 30, 2017 — whichever comes first. Tickets are nonrefundable and nontransferable, but we wouldn't even call that a "catch." You can purchase these tickets until July 30 thru your travel agent (i.e., me!). Suddenly, telling your kids "We're going to Disney World!" doesn't seem so financially horrifying — *now that's* the best magic I've ever seen, hands down.

ENCHANTED ESCAPE AWAITS—SAVE UP TO 25%* ON ROOMS AT SELECT WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT HOTELS!

It's the perfect time to stay in the middle of the magic! You can save up to 25%* on rooms at select **Walt Disney World®** Resort hotels for stays most nights August 1 to October 7, 2017, when you book by **August 31, 2017**. With this offer, you can enjoy distinctive Disney Resort Guest benefits and amenities—including early access to **Disney FastPass+** planning, Extra Magic Hours, and complimentary Resort transportation, standard parking, and entertaining amenities! Plus, you can uncover a magical mix of new and unforgettable experiences when you add theme park admission, including **Pandora—The World of Avatar** at **Disney's Animal Kingdom®** Theme Park.

**The number of rooms allocated for this offer is limited. Length-of-stay requirements may apply. Savings based on the nondiscounted price for the same room. Additional per-adult charges may apply if more than two adults per room at Disney Value, Moderate, and Deluxe Resorts. This offer cannot be combined with any other discount or promotion. Advance reservations required. Offer excludes 3-bedroom villas, Disney's Art of Animation Resort—The Little Mermaid Standard Rooms, and the Bungalows at Disney's Polynesian Villas & Bungalows. 25% savings for select Disney Deluxe and Disney Deluxe Villa Resorts; lower savings may be available at other select Disney Resort hotels.*

TOP 10 REASONS TO USE A TRAVEL AGENT

1. You've Googled "Mexico Vacation," and come up with 17.8 million responses. Need a little help editing those choices?
2. Remember when you used that obscure website to book your hotel, and when you got there you spend your beach vacation overlooking a parking lot?

3. How many hours were you on hold with the airline when your flight was canceled because of a snowstorm?
4. Did you really mean to spend your honeymoon at that resort where the one tiny swimming pool was filled all day long with a dozen screaming children?
5. Who knew that when you booked that “villa” in Tuscany, it would be a small room with a kitchenette and no air conditioning? Funny, it looked much better on your computer screen.
6. No one explained to you that in July, it's winter time in Rio, and so you showed up there with nothing but five Hawaiian shirts and three pairs of swimming trunks.
7. How about the time you really needed a restful vacation, and you ended up in New Orleans during Mardi Gras and someone threw up on your shoes?
8. Yes, I guess that hotel must have used a telephoto lens when they took a picture of those guest rooms that you saw on their website.
9. I suppose contacting the Attorney General to resolve the fact that the Internet site has billed your credit card three times instead of once is the only route to take at this point.
10. It was definitely odd that there were no cab drivers at the airport at 3 o'clock in the morning when you finally landed in Costa Rica, but booking a transfer to your very remote hotel would have been a good thing to remember when you purchased your airline ticket and hotel online.

WHEN SHOULD I GO TO WALT DISNEY WORLD?

Jen Juneau, Hello Giggles Tue, Apr 11 \

Walt Disney World is on many a vacation bucket list, and for good reason — they don't call it “The Most Magical Place on Earth” for nothing. But if you've ever been, you probably know there are times that are good times to visit Walt Disney World and terrible (see: expensive, hot/humid, rainy, and crowded) times.

Not to toot my own horn, but I — an Orlando resident and Walt Disney World frequenter — have some great tips on the best times to visit the parks. And if you want further reading, you can even hop on over to Undercover Tourist, which is a great source for any and everything theme-park-crowd related.

1. Late January/Early February

You think January and you think “Oh the holidays are over, bye crowds!” Not so fast. The second weekend in January is always Marathon Weekend, which is a ginormous event — WDW's biggest race weekend, as it hosts four different races that if you're a total machine and have beaucoup money you can run and get five medals.

The weekends in January that aren't New Year's, Marathon, and MLK weekend (so like...one or two weekends, depending on the year) are generally slower — as is most of February aside from the last weekend, which is when Princess Half Marathon Weekend takes place. And really, in my opinion, those two months are the most pleasant, weather-wise, to go. January and February are the coolest months in Orlando. (Bonus: You can make a romantic Valentine's Day reservation at Be Our Guest!)

(Disclaimer: The Epcot International Festival of the Arts is launching in January 2018, so that will undoubtedly make January/February a bit more crowded, but definitely still not as bad as summer.)

2. Early May

March and April kick off two huge crowd-gatherers: spring break and the Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival. There's also a new Star Wars half marathon in late April; so honestly, those two months are pretty darn busy. But May, especially early May, is a great time to go. The initial F&G Festival crowds have thinned out, spring break is definitely over, summer break hasn't started for most people...and while it's definitely hot by this time, it's not melt-in-your-shoes-like-the-Wicked-Witch-of-the-West hot. Yet.

3. Late August

Notice we went ahead and skipped June and July and half of August, because sorry guys, summer is the absolute worst time to visit WDW. It's sweltering hot and humid, and the crowds are completely insane. You couldn't pay us to set foot inside Magic Kingdom over the Fourth of July Weekend. But if a summer trip is a must for you for some godforsaken reason, mid-to-late August is great. School has started up for most students, and you don't have the Epcot International Food & Wine Festival crowds piling in quite yet.

4. Early to mid-September

The aforementioned Food & Wine Fest starts earlier and earlier each year because of how much it has swelled in popularity — it actually starts Aug. 31 this year, which is pretty nuts. September was always the slowest month to go, but that looks like it might change. We see you, Disney execs trying to close crowd gaps. We don't like it. And by we, I mean people who know the crowd-dodging secrets. That being said, if you do want to check out the Food & Wine Fest and not have to wait in crazy lines at each booth, early September is a good time. As mentioned before, the kiddos are mostly back in school, and most folks will flock down again when the weather starts cooling off a bit. You can be the guinea pig/taste tester for the best noms. (Be warned, though — late August/early September is probably the hottest time of the year.)

5. Weekdays in October

October is a really awesome time to visit WDW. The weather has started to cool off a liiiittle bit (see: highs of 85 instead of 101), and the over-the-top fall decorations go up to mark the celebration of Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party. This event is a ton of fun — and as you can probably guess, it's best to go as early in the season as possible, and on a weekday. Grab all the candy you can, and don't miss the Hocus Pocus Villain Spelltacular!

6. November: minus the first weekend and Thanksgiving week

The first weekend in November is always Wine and Dine Half Marathon Weekend. I know I know, so many races, and this one isn't even that great anymore since they started doing it during the day instead of at night and nixed the Osborne Lights at Disney's Hollywood Studios, but I digress. Pretty much right after Halloween, the holiday decorations go up. So if you want to get into the holiday spirit at WDW but want to do it as minimally suffocatingly (it's a word) as possible, the second and third week (ends) in November are generally decent. Whatever you do, do not subject yourself to Thanksgiving week (end). You will thank us.

7. After Thanksgiving weekend

If pre-Thanksgiving is too early for you to get in the Christmas spirit (understandable) and you have to go during the holiday season, do it the weekend directly following Thanksgiving weekend if you can. The Turkey Day crowds will have peaked out and the Christmas ones will just be starting to trickle in. This writer highly recommends Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party — the earlier in the month, the better, and a Sunday or weekday is going to be much less elbow-to-elbow than a Friday.

7 TIPS FOR CHOOSING WHICH DISNEY WORLD PARK TO VISIT ON WHICH DAY

Posted by: Christy Caby

There is definitely no wrong choice when it comes to choosing a Disney World park to visit. They are all amazing and offer very different attractions and experiences for you to enjoy with your family. That being said, there is definitely a method to the madness for selecting which park to visit on a particular day. Here are 7 tips for choosing which Disney World park to visit on which days:

7. Know your dining reservations.

If you have made your dining reservations, you will definitely want to factor this into your decision. A lot of time can be wasted if you are hopping back and forth too much between the parks and resorts, so you will need to double-check where your dining reservations are, and try to plan your park days around them to ensure you get the most Disney time!

6. Magic Kingdom is the most popular park.

This is always true. If visitors can only visit one or even two parks during their trip to Florida, Magic Kingdom is almost always one that is chosen. It is the most popular park for many different reasons, so you want to consider that when picking days. Try to make your Magic Kingdom day(s) ones that aren't on the weekend and are on days when you will at least be likely to experience the least amount of crowds.

5. Extra Magic Hours.

Pay attention to which nights have Extra Magic Hours. If you aren't using Park Hopper tickets and are staying at a Disney resort, you will want to make sure to visit the park that has Extra Magic Hours on that day so that you get the full benefit

of the experience. If you are using Park Hopper, it may be worthwhile to visit another park outside of the Extra Magic Hours times, since this can spike attendance during the rest of the day since many resort guests will be targeting that park for their visit. Park hoppers get the best of both worlds; they can enjoy the benefit and then leave to head to another park!

4. Check crowd calendars.

There are many different crowd predictors out there on different travel sites. A quick Google search will bring up a few of the most popular ones. There are no guarantees that they are accurate, but could be a good guide since they try to factor in all of these tips and historical crowd patterns when they make their predictions. We don't live and die by crowd calendars, but we do like to use them when we find ourselves in a toss-up decision.

3. Are there special events?

Make sure that you look into this ahead of time, especially if you don't have Park Hopper passes. Sometimes particular parks close early for separate tickets events (especially the Magic Kingdom) this means that on those days you may not get to experience fireworks and evening shows, and you will have shorter park hours to enjoy the park. Be sure to check the hours and make sure that are no special events (unless you have tickets) so that you get the most out of your day at that park.

2. FastPass+ Availability.

When it comes to getting some of the hard-to-get FastPass+ options like Toy Story Midway Mania, Seven Dwarfs Mine Train, etc., a good tip is to see what day you can get them for and plan around that. Maybe you can't get Test Track on Monday, but you can get it on Tuesday. That may be the better plan since it will save you the wait time for the desired attraction and may be a way to help build your plans.

1. Know show and firework schedules.

This is especially important if you are visiting during off-peak months. For example, sometimes Fantasmic may only be shown at Disney's Hollywood Studios on certain nights. We also suggest knowing the schedule for Rivers of Light at Animal Kingdom, Star Wars: A Galactic Spectacular at Hollywood Studios, and Wishes at Magic Kingdom. There could be nights where these aren't shown for various reasons, so you will want to check the weekly Times Guide to make sure that you plan your days so that you don't miss these amazing shows!

NEW FEATURE**RANDOM INFORMATION**

CHICAGO'S BEST PLACES FOR OUTDOOR DINING

In Chicago, the definition of "warm" is open for discussion. Unlike L.A. or Miami, we don't need sundress weather to eat outside. The minute that the temperature tops 50, tables are out, umbrellas are installed and *al fresco* dining season commences. We may need heat lamps, but no matter. If it's bearable (remember, we have survived the polar vortex), Chicagoans will brave the elements. Another thing: We are not picky about the exterior ambiance. A chic, shrub-filled patio is great. A rooftop urban oasis is fabulous. But, we are also just as happy nosing at a table plopped down unceremoniously on a city sidewalk. So, where are the best bets around the city? It depends on your mood. For romance, nothing tops the picturesque perch of North Pond Café. For a hipster vibe, hit The Dawson. For steakhouse fare that perfectly complements its stellar people-watching, book Gibson's. And for classic Italian that never disappoints, go to Vivo.

The Dawson

Tracking down that authentically cool, off-the-grid restaurant can be tricky. To make like a local, head to West Town, where this former fireplace-mantle factory turned neighborhood *boite* beckons with craft-oriented cuisine, such as chicken-fried lobster and honey-brined pork chops and killer cocktails, such as the Bayonet, with gin, watermelon, tarragon and sparkling wine. There are two levels for outdoor dining.

North Pond

Enjoying cuisine by James Beard Award-winning chef Bruce Sherman's at this restored "warming house" for ice skaters in Lincoln Park, and gazing up at the Chicago skyline, is an incomparable experience. Though not technically outside, with the French doors thrown open, this restaurant on the edge of a pond feels positively *al fresco*.

Gibson's

Whatever the season, Gibson's is Chicago's ultimate steakhouse. The outdoor section of this restaurant (outfitted with ceiling heaters, natch) is perennially packed with A-listers, executives and sports elite. Why? It's the orgy of marvelously marbled prime ribs, charred chops and colossal lobster tails. Not to mention the mountains of creamed spinach, the massive martinis and the exceptional service.

Shanghai Terrace

Tucked inside the Peninsula Hotel, Shanghai Terrace is a true urban oasis. While enjoying upscale Pan Asian specialties such as dim sum, BBQ pork buns and Peking duck, you'll also be treated to a visual feast: stunning panoramic views of the iconic Chicago Skyline from the vantage point of Michigan Avenue.

COURT DECISION NARROWS TRAVEL BAN CRITERIA

by [Richard D'Ambrosio](#) / June 28, 2017 *Travel Market Report*

A day after the Supreme Court approved a modified travel ban for individuals from six Muslim-majority countries, the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) said the decision offers a narrow scope though questions remain.

On Monday, [the Supreme Court ruled the Trump administration can enforce a 90-day ban](#) on travelers from Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, Libya and Syria, though it narrowed the scope to allow people with a "bona fide" relationship "with a person or entity in the United States," as well as college students, employees and those having family members living in the U.S., to obtain visas and travel to the U.S.

The ban should be implemented in the next few days, and the State Department said it will work with the travel industry to implement the order with greater transparency.

"We will keep those traveling to the United States and partners in the travel industry informed as we implement the order in a professional, organized, and timely way," spokesperson Heather Nauert said.

"At the end of the day, this is between the traveler and the consular office issuing the visa," said ASTA spokesperson Erika Richter. ASTA said it is assisting member travel agents in complying with the order as it currently stands pending the Court's review on the merits expected in October.

"As it is imperative that the traveling public maintain confidence in an industry so vital to our nation's economy, we ask that the Administration set clear implementation guidelines in the interim so uncertainty, and the travel disruptions likely to result, are kept to an absolute minimum," ASTA said in a statement.

"In the meantime, we align with the sentiment expressed by the U.S. Travel Association and other industry leaders that an overt message welcoming legitimate international travelers to the United States should accompany any security steps aimed at terrorists and those who overstay their visas."

As terrorism and the travel ban blanketed media coverage this year, ASTA has had a visibly closer relationship with the U.S. State Department, and has been closely coordinating with the agency regarding understanding the particulars of measures like this executive order.

In April of this year, [at the suggestion of *Travel Market Report*](#), the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs launched a website with information and links travel agents use to manage client travel needs, including travel alerts and warnings as well as information on passports, preparing for a trip abroad and emergency assistance.

The site, which also offers links to the TSA PreCheck and Global Entry programs and information for cruise passengers, is available on [Travel Market Report's](#) home page.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE ABROAD DURING AN ATTACK

BY Cynthia Drescher – Conte Nast Traveler – July 3, 2017

Steps to take for safety and security following a crisis while traveling.

In the unlikely event that your travels are interrupted by an attack, you may have to act and move quickly in a city where you're a tourist and unfamiliar with the language and layout. Take a page from [airplane pilots](#) when prioritizing your actions in a crisis and remember "aviate, navigate, and communicate." For aviate, resist the urge to shut down or give in to panic. For navigate, take stock of exactly where you are, plus possible escape routes or safe zones should they be necessary. Finally, for communicate, once you've confirmed your safety and health, share your status with family and on social media.

Here are specific ways to ensure you stay safe, take steps for security, and stay up to date with information in the midst of an emergency:

Notify the U.S. Embassy of your whereabouts, status, and onward travel plans. Search for your nearest U.S. Embassy and their contact details on the [official government website](#) and register your future or onward travels via the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, or [STEP](#).

Use Facebook's [Safety Check](#) feature to quickly inform your friends and family, via the social network, of your safety. Geolocation will pinpoint your proximity to a site of crisis, and your next visit to Facebook will prompt you to "mark yourself safe."

Consider adding an [international voice and data plan](#) for your Smartphone if you aren't already traveling with one. You may have one and not yet know it; T-Mobile customers have free international texting and 2G data in more than 140 countries (even Christmas Island!), with \$0.20-per-minute calling, as part of every postpaid plan. If 2G isn't fast enough, there are several options to pay for a bump in data speed. Sprint is similar, but much slower, with speed-capped 2G data in Latin America, Japan, and Europe. Meanwhile, both AT&T and Verizon offer "passes" for international data, from \$10 per day to \$40 for an entire month, for use in 200 countries. For the truly international, Google's [Project Fi](#) may be the solution, with a \$10-per-gigabyte rate and unlimited texting in more than 135 countries and no restrictions on how much of that use needs to be in the United States.

If your phone is unlocked, buying a local SIM card and prepaid plan also works. The ability to call emergency services, travel providers, and your friends and family should not be underestimated. In addition, having data means access to mapping apps, [social media](#), travel re-booking emails, and any breaking news updates on the situation.

Gather phone numbers and monitor social media accounts for your booked [airlines](#) and hotels, should travel be disrupted or rescheduled. Have your confirmation codes for booked travel easily retrievable. Memorize your passport number and its expiration date.

Visit the [U.S. State Department's Alerts and Warnings website](#) for details and assessments of any new potential threats to foreign tourists resulting from the crisis.

Be a good neighbor. Consider participating in opportunities to help individuals and the community recover. Facebook is another excellent source for this, which is yet another reason to have international data for your smartphone.

PLEASE HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE SUMMER, AND DON'T FORGET, PIXIE DUST TOURS IS THERE TO HANDLE NOT ONLY YOUR DISNEY TRIPS BUT OTHER TRIPS AS WELL!
